

would help in fostering increased trade and economic ties between the two countries.

[English]

Export of Handloom Products and Handicrafts of Rajasthan

6970. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom products and handicrafts made in Rajasthan have great demand in the international market;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of these items;

(c) the details of the agencies which are involved in the export of these items; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the rural artisans in Rajasthan to increase the production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Handicrafted folklore textile products and other handicraft products of Rajasthan have good markets specially in Europe, U.S.A. and Canada.

(b) to (d). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

(b) to (d). Government is operating a number of schemes in the areas of training, marketing, exhibition, design and technological development, supply of raw material etc., for the development of Indian handicrafts. Two Marketing and Service Extension Centres are functioning at Jaipur and Jodhpur. Besides, 13 Carpet Weaving training Centre and 3 Handprinting Textile Centres are functioning in different parts of Rajasthan.

2. Government is running various schemes for the promotion and development of handloom sector and has been providing assistance to the handloom weavers both in the Co-operative and outside the Co-operative fold. Some of the major programmes in operation are as follows:

- (i) Yarn supply through National Handloom Development Corporation
- (ii) Janatha Cloth Scheme
- (iii) Market Development Assistance Scheme
- (iv) Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme
- (v) Thrift Fund Scheme
- (vi) Share capital assistance to State Handloom Development Corporations.
- (vii) Publicity and Exhibition.
- (viii) Research and Development/Market Survey and Studies.
- (ix) Hill Area/Desert Area Woollen Handloom Development Export Production Projects.
- (x) Pre-loom/Post-Loom Processing Facilities.
- (xi) Loan Assistance to Handloom Weavers for becoming members of the primary weavers co-operative societies.

The Weavers' Service Centre based in Jaipur is documenting, preserving and developing the traditional handloom arts of the State by providing design input and technical supervision.

3. Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of handloom and handicraft items from all over the country, including Rajasthan, like sending sale-cum-study teams, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, participation in fair in major markets, grant of export incentives etc. Besides, handloom fabrics and handicraft items are not covered by the quota restrictions.

National Highways

6871. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment on the total kilometres of national highways which the country will be needing by the end of current century; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop the National Highways accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is having in mind the 20-Year (1981-2001) Road Development Plan prepared by a group of Chief Engineers under the aegis of Indian Roads Congress, which envisages *inter alia*, a National Highway network aggregating to 66,000 kms by the turn of the century. However, the Govt. has not made any independent assessment in this regard.

(b) Development of National Highways is a continuous activity. Keeping in view the recommendations made by the National Transport Policy Committee, the prescribed criteria of new N.H.s and availability of funds etc., it has been possible to add a length of 4,666 kms of National Highway grid since 1980. Further additions to the N.H. system

would depend on availability of funds in the 8th Plan or subsequent plans etc.

Survey by Tfai for Export Potential in States

6972. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Fair Authority of India has conducted a survey on the export potential of different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to Rajasthan; and

(c) the steps taken to promote exports from Rajasthan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Foreign Exchange for setting up of Petro-Chemical Project at Haldia

6973. SHRISATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide necessary foreign exchange for setting up of petro-chemical project at Haldia, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corporation have been approached to finance the Haldia Petro-chemical Complex in West Bengal.

(b) International Finance Corporation